BISON
CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Giving Parents a Choice • Giving Children a Chance

Deadline is VERY STRICT
MUST APPLY BY
Feb. 28, 2021
Drawing is March 1st, 2021

A private scholarship fund providing tuition assistance for low-income families throughout the 8 counties of Western New York who want to enroll their children in private schools.

BISON Scholarship Quick Facts:

- Average scholarship of $1,480 and maximum award of $2,500.
- Currently BISON has over 1,940 scholars in 81 different private schools across Western New York.
- Each family must contribute toward their child's private education.

Income Eligibility Amounts:

Household Size	Total Income (Based on 2020 household income)
2	$ 46,548
3	$ 58,644
4	$ 70,740
5	$ 82,836
6	$ 94,932
7	$ 107,028
8	$ 119,124

STEP 1

Complete a **pre-application online at bisonfund.com** between **January 1, 2021 and February 28, 2021.** If you have any questions, you can call BISON at (716) 854-0869 ext. 1.

STEP 2

Watch for notification after the **BISON Lottery** is held on **March 1, 2021**. Lottery winners will receive an email with a link directing them to complete a full application to receive the scholarship. If you're not chosen, you will automatically be placed on the BISON waitlist.

STEP 3

If selected, complete the full application online. Enroll your child(ren) in the school of their choice and ask the school to complete the school commitment form.

STEP 4

Once all the steps are completed, BISON will notify you of your scholarship amount. Watch for email notices to annually renew your BISON Scholarship in February of each year.

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BISON Contact Information:

Cindy McDonald, Program Director **(716) 854-0869 ext. 1** **cmcdonald@bisonfund.com**

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FAQ FOR FAMILIES

More detailed information can be found on our website at www.bisonfund.com

Who qualifies for a BISON K-8 scholarship?

Residents of the 8 counties of Western New York (WNY) with children entering K-8th grade with a total family income within the income eligibility scale. You may only apply for your biological or legal guardian children.

How do new families apply?

New families must complete a pre-application form electronically (online) on our website at bisonfund.com. **The new family deadline is February 28, 2021.** Preference is NOT given to early applications; however you must apply by 2/28 to be considered for the lottery. Families applying after the February 28, 2021 deadline will be placed on our waitlist.

How are BISON scholarship recipients chosen?

Scholarships are awarded using a lottery system from all submitted pre-application forms on **March 1, 2021.** Lottery winners will receive an email with a link directing them to complete a full application in order to receive the scholarship.

How do I know if I won the lottery?

All applicants will be notified of lottery results by email on **March 1, 2021.** If you're not chosen in the lottery you can always reapply for the next school year.

I received a scholarship award email ... now what?

In your award email, there will be a link to complete your full application. Click on the link and follow the application steps. **The deadline to complete the application is April 30, 2021.** Please be sure to include all your income sources including your FEDERAL 1040 tax return, child support, business income, public assistance, food stamps, Social Security income, unemployment insurance, worker's compensation and financial assistance from family & friends. Select your school (a complete list can be found on our website) and contact the school to complete the school commitment form. After receipt of all the required documents, your scholarship will be calculated based on your household size and income, as well as tuition amount. You must renew annually to continue with BISON.

I received an email that I'm on a waitlist ... now what?

Unfortunately, there are always more applicants than available funding. We keep waitlist names for the academic year hopeful that additional funding becomes available. If you are not taken off the waitlist, you will need to resubmit a pre-application next year to be considered.

Why do families have to pay part of the tuition?

One key component of educational success is parental involvement. Making a financial sacrifice is a strong incentive to becoming and remaining, involved. BISON families are required to pay a minimum of $500 each year.